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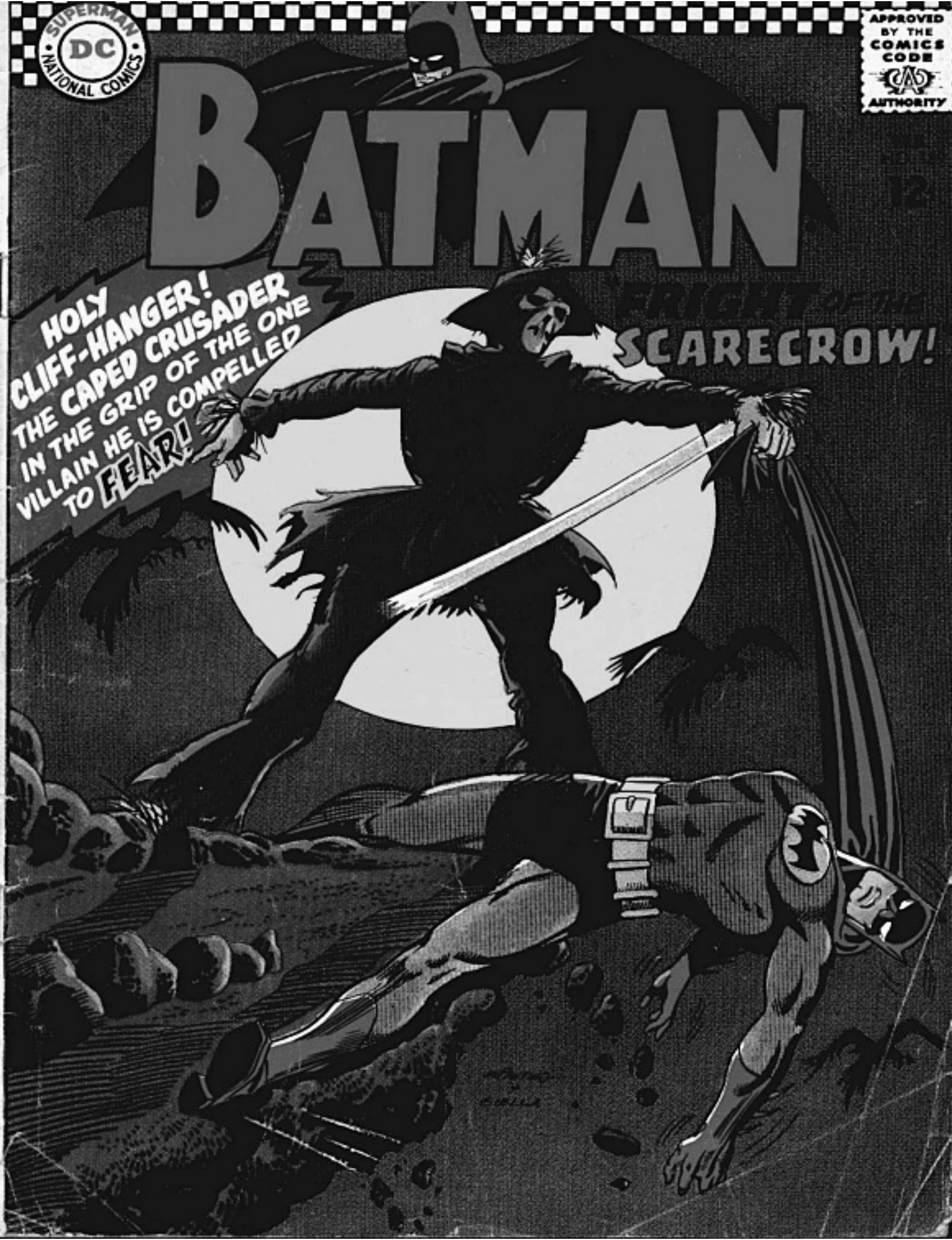
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BATMAN

**HOLY
CLIFF-HANGER!**
THE CAPED CRUSADER
IN THE GRIP OF THE ONE
VILLAIN HE IS COMPELLED
TO FEAR!

**FRIGHT OF THE
SCARECROW!**



OUT OF THE
DIM AND MISTY
DAYS OF THE
PAST-- LIKE
SOME SINISTER
SHADOW FROM
A NIGHTMARE--
STEPS THE
SHAGGY,
STRAWLIKE
FIGURE OF
THE
SCARECROW!

ONCE AGAIN
THE PRINCE
OF PANIC
CLUES IN
BATMAN
AND ROBIN
TO HIS
FEAR-FILLED
CRIMES!
ONCE AGAIN THE
DYNAMIC DUO
IS INTIMIDATED AND
TERROR-STRIKEN
BY THE --

BATMAN

With **ROBIN THE BOY WONDER**

FRIGHT OF THE SCARECROW!

NOW THAT I HAVE MADE
BATMAN AND ROBIN
BLIND--AND FEARFUL
OF THE "DARK"-- MY
PERILOUS PETS WILL
FINISH THEM OFF!



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PROLOGUE

THE ORIGIN OF THE SCARECROW--
ADAPTED FROM "THE RIDDLE
OF THE HUMAN SCARECROW"--
PUBLISHED IN **WORLD'S
FINEST COMICS # 3**,
FALL ISSUE, 1941.



VERY OFTEN AN INCIDENT
WHICH OCCURS IN CHILDHOOD
SUGGESTS THE SORT OF
PERSON THAT CHILD WILL BE
WHEN HE HAS GROWN UP.
SUCH WAS THE CASE WITH
JONATHAN CRANE, WHO AS A
SMALL BOY LIKED TO
FRIGHTEN BIRDS...



WHEN JONATHAN CRANE
GREW UP, HE BECAME A
TEACHER OF PSYCHOLOGY
IN A UNIVERSITY-- AND
THIS IS WHERE WE FIND
HIM TODAY...

GENTLEMEN, THIS TERM WE
STUDY THE PSYCHOLOGY
OF FEAR! FEAR-- THAT AWFUL
DREAD WHICH GRIPS A
PERSON WHEN THOUGHTS
OF TERROR RUN THROUGH
HIS MIND!



NOTICE THIS GUN! SHOULD
I POINT IT AT YOU, YOU
WOULD BE AFRAID. BUT--
YOU WOULD BE **MORE**
AFRAID--



-- IF I DID
THIS!



NOW YOU SEE WHAT THE GUN CAN DO!
IT CAN DESTROY! BEFORE-- YOU ONLY
GUESSED WHAT IT COULD DO. NOW THAT
YOU HAVE SEEN ITS DESTRUCTIVE POWER--
YOU ARE EVEN MORE AFRAID! SIMPLE
PSYCHOLOGY, GENTLEMEN--

AFTER CLASS IS OVER, JONATHAN CRANE PASSES BY
SOME OTHER PROFESSORS...

YOU'RE COMING TO THE
PARTY I'M GIVING
TONIGHT. EVERY-
BODY'LL BE THERE--
SO DON'T FORGET!

EVERYBODY--
BUT ONE, eh? CRANE
LOOKS SO SHABBY IN
THOSE OLD CLOTHES--
POSITIVELY
WEIRD!



CRANE EARNS THE SAME SALARY
WE DO! WHY DOESN'T HE BUY
SOME DECENT CLOTHES?

HE SPENDS EVERY
CENT HE EARNS
TO BUY NEW
BOOKS!

POOR CRANE! HE CERTAINLY IS AN
ODD FELLOW. HE LOOKS LIKE A
SCARECROW IN THAT GET-UP OF
HIS!



LATER IN HIS HOME, PROFESSOR CRANE
PONDERS...

THE FOOLS! DO THEY THINK
I'D GIVE UP MY PRECIOUS BOOKS
JUST TO BUY CLOTHES? ... **BAH!**
THEY THINK I'M ODD, DO THEY?
THAT I LOOK LIKE A SCARECROW...
A SCARECROW!

THEY JUDGE
HUMAN VALUES
BY MONEY--
BY THE SHOW
WHICH MONEY
MAKES! IF I
HAD MONEY
THEY'D RE-
SPECT ME--
ALL RIGHT!
AND--AND
I COULD
STILL BUY
ALL THE
BOOKS I
WANT! YES--
IF I ONLY
HAD MONEY...
LOTS OF
MONEY...



NEXT DAY IN CLASS...

TAKE THE EXAMPLE OF THE "PROTECTION RACKET", AS WORKED BY THE GANGSTER. HE WANTS MONEY--SO HE MAKES PEOPLE PAY HIM. AND HOW DOES HE DO THIS?

HE MAKES PEOPLE AFRAID--SO TERRIBLY AFRAID THEY PAY HIM WHAT HE ASKS! YES-- HE PUTS REAL **FEAR** INTO THEIR HEARTS-- AND HE GETS **MONEY!** LOTS OF **MONEY**--ALL BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE **AFRAID** OF HIM!

IN HIS HOME THAT NIGHT, THE DISTORTED BRAIN OF PROFESSOR CRANE BEGINS THINKING ALONG FANTASTIC LINES-- ALONG **CRIMINAL** LINES...

ODD, AM I? AND-- A **SCARECROW!** **FEAR** MAKES **MONEY** FOR THE GANGSTER SO WHY NOT FOR--**ME?**
HMMMM...

IF I LOOK LIKE A **SCARECROW**-- THEN THAT WILL BE MY SYMBOL! A SYMBOL OF POVERTY AND FEAR COMBINED! THE PERFECT SYMBOL TO REPRESENT JONATHAN CRANE-- THE **SCARECROW!**

AND SO IS BORN AN EVIL FIGURE OF THE NIGHT! ACROSS **BATMAN'S** HORIZON STALKS THIS NEW AND FRIGHTENING FORM-- A SCARY SHAPE OF STRAW AND SHAGGY BURLAP, WITH A BRAIN BOTH CUNNING AND DISTORTED!

WHO IS THIS FIGURE WHOSE VERY LUDICROUS APPEARANCE INSPIRES **FEAR**--SYMBOLIZES **FEAR**--FEAR INCARNATE--FEAR WALKING THE STREETS OF **GOTHAM CITY?**

IT IS THAT MOST TERRIBLE--MOST BIZARRE OF ALL CRIMINALS--THE CRIMINAL ALL WILL LEARN TO **FEAR**--AND CALL...

THE SCARECROW!

FRIGHT OF THE SCARECROW PART ONE

DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON IS A PLAY-GROUND INSTRUCTOR IN GOTHAM PARK...

ALL RIGHT, FELLOWS -- KEEP IT MOVING! THESE EXERCISES WILL DEVELOP YOUR MUSCLES AND KEEP YOU HEALTHY! LET'S GO!



BUT OCCASIONALLY THERE IS ONE YOUNGSTER--SHY, SCHOLARLY, WITH MORE INTEREST IN PHYSICS THAN IN PHYSICAL EXERCISE--WHO KNOWS THE BITE OF FEAR...

I'M SCARED, DICK!! GASP!! I-I JUST CAN'T LET GO!

SURE YOU CAN, ANDY! THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID!

WE OVERCOME FEAR BY FIGHTING IT, BY DOING THE VERY THING WE FEAR TO DO! NOW GIVE IT A TRY...

IF...IF YOU SAY SO, DICK! I KNOW YOU WANT ME TO DO WELL!

UNDER THE CAJOLING WORDS AND READY SMILE OF HIS YOUTHFUL INSTRUCTOR, ANDY MAKES HIS SWING...

LOOK! LOOK! I'M DOING IT!

YOU SEE? YOU KNOW IT ISN'T SO BAD NOW! ONCE YOU OVERCOME A FEAR, BY CONFRONTING IT--IT WILL NEVER BOTHER YOU AGAIN!



FROM HIS ELEVATED PERCH, DICK CAN LOOK OUT ACROSS TO THE GOTHAM PARK RIVER WHERE...

eh? THAT LOOKS LIKE A MIDGET SUBMARINE COMING UP-RIVER! BUT WHY'S A SUBMARINE SNEAKING THROUGH GOTHAM PARK? I'D BETTER FIND OUT!



OKAY, FELLOWS--TIME OUT FOR EATS! GRAB YOUR LUNCH BOXES AND MAKE FOR THE PICNIC AREA!



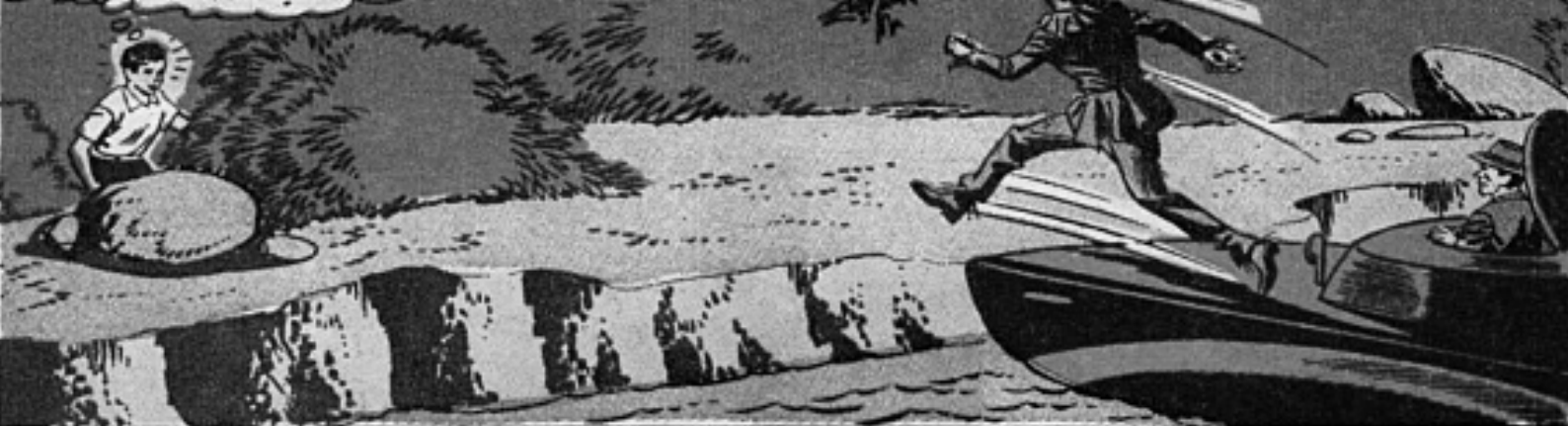
MOMENTS AFTERWARD, KEEN EYES FOLLOWING THE UNDERSEA CRAFT, DICK MOVES ALONG THE RIVER-BANK...

MY LUNCH--AND MY ROBIN OUTFIT--ARE IN MY BASKET SO I'M PREPARED IF SOMETHING DEVELOPS! HMMM--THE SUB IS TURNING IN TOWARD THIS BANK--



MOMENTS LATER...

HOLY SHOCKERD! IT'S--THE--SCARECROW!! ON THE LOOSE AGAIN! WH--WHAT KIND OF CROOKED BUSINESS CAN HE PULL OFF HERE IN THE PARK?



SHORTLY, A CHEERY VOICE HAILS THE YOUTHFUL SLEUTH...

HI, THERE, DICK! ALFRED AND I CAME OVER TO SURPRISE YOUR YOUNG CHARGES WITH SOME ICE CREAM TREATS!

MASTER DICK LOOKS AS IF HE'S SEEN A GHOST!

BRUCE! ALFRED! AM I EVER GLAD YOU'RE HERE! WAIT'LL I TELL YOU WHO JUST SHOWED UP!



MOMENTS LATER, AFTER DONNING THEIR BAT-MAN AND ROBIN LIGHTWEIGHT SUMMER COSTUMES INSIDE THE ICE CREAM WAGON...

THE SCARECROW, eh? I WONDERED WHAT-EVER BECAME OF THAT OLD FEAR-FOE OF OURS!

HE'S UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS, I'LL BET!

WHILE YOU GO OUT TO APPREHEND HIM--I'LL MIND THE "STORE"!



CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING.

LITTLE

PETE

WHAT A COOL DRUM SET, PETE.
TOM-TOM, CYMBAL, COW
BELL -- EVERYTHING!

IT'S A NEW MODEL
PUT OUT BY
EMENEE!

CAN I
PLAY
IT?

SURE. TEN CENTS
FOR HALF AN HOUR.

TEN CENTS?
BUT BILLY TOLD
ME YOU LET
HIM PLAY IT
FOR A
NICKEL!

THAT'S BECAUSE BILLY'S UNDER
SEVEN -- HE PAYS HALF PRICE!

6470

BATGIRL is
HERE!

She's
all...

NEW!
DYNAMIC!
KNOWING!
OVER!



ALL IN ALL --
AN ALL-STAR SENSATION!
ON SALE NOV. 29th



LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

DEAR EDITOR:

My hearty congratulations to you on a job well done. *Batman* 184 was certainly one of the best all-around issues that I have seen to date.

To start it off, this issue boasted of a beautiful cover. The color-scheme was excellent and the eerie lettering style used in printing the words "Where are *Batman* and *Robin*?" added a macabre and mystifying air to the story. Although I generally favor covers which depict one specific scene taken from an interesting interval in the story, I must confess that I can find nothing wrong with this one.

As for the feature story, "Mystery of the Missing Manhunters" was ingenious, and then some. As the story progressed, things started to add up, such as why *Batman* and *Robin* had remained isolated from the rest of the world for 13 days, the main point of the story. And then it built up to its climax and to what I consider a very appropriate ending, the ironic and fitting death of *Slippery Sam*. This story had all of the necessary elements needed to make any yarn a successful one.

And then came the cherry that topped off the issue. I refer to "The Boy Wonder's Boo-Boo Patrol." At last, *Robin* is back in action by himself again! This story was certainly a good example of *Robin*'s undying desire to prove his worthiness to *Batman* (although I'm reasonably assured that the *Caped Crusader* has much more faith in *Robin* than he would ever suspect).

So for the wrap-up, I'll simply say that if you keep printing future issues comparable to, or even near as good as this one, I'll keep buying.

—Alan Trahern, Covington, La.

(Would you believe that the verdict above—"one of the best all-around issues"—could be ruthlessly reversed by a femmefan? Read on below and convince yourself!—Editor)

DEAR EDITOR:

For 13 jittery nights the *Bat-signal* blazed in the sky . . . for 13 desperate days the *Hot-line* remained unanswered! Where were *Batman* and *Robin*? Where? I'll tell you where! They were hiding until *Batman* 184 went off sale, intelligently waiting until all the angry mutterings had subsided before they ventured into the light of day. And I don't blame them. I'd hide too, if I ever tried to pull off such a horrible hoax!

The cover of *Batman* 184 promised a story rich in suspense, mystery, and action. The story it represented, "Mystery of the Missing Manhunters", contained exactly one page of suspense (page 2), one page of mystery (page 3), and several pages of diluted, toned down action. Now, I am not complaining about the story itself; as stories go it was a good one. But as suspenseful, mysterious, action-packed stories go, it was one big flop! "Mystery of the Missing Manhunters" has about as much in common with "For 13 jittery nights . . ." as a Cassius Clay press conference has with a Leonard Bernstein concert! Here I was, avidly expecting something "different" and exciting, and instead I got the usual grade A story! (Nothing wrong with Grade A, but when you're expecting Grade AA, well . . .)

As for "The Boy Wonder's Boo-Boo Patrol," I'm glad to say I could find absolutely nothing wrong! Uh . . . well, maybe I'd better take that back, just in case, for the story wasn't that wonderful. *Robin*'s solo adventures are a real treat, though, and I hope you'll make it a

practice of giving him at least one a year.

—Irene Vartanoff, Bethesda, Md.

DEAR EDITOR:

Batman 184 was rich, almost seething with the one element that is so important in most all *Batman* stories, and that's mystery. And, Mr. Editor, that is why I liked issue 184.

I'm not exactly sure whom to credit the script of "Mystery of the Missing Manhunters" with. Whoever did it sure did an outstanding job of packing within 14 pages the wonderful type of action that has become synonymous with the *Caped Crime-Fighter*. There were a few things that I didn't cotton to. Such as the hypnotism disk used by the *Duo* being ready for use. This fact peeves me. Whenever *Batman* or *Robin* need something in the *Batcave* (or *Batmobile*) all they do is turn around and there it is. To me at least, this seems highly UN-realistic, and I wish that this practice could be curtailed.

Frankly, I don't know who wrote "The Boy Wonder's Boo-Boo Patrol" but if I were the author I wouldn't own up to this disaster. There are few who are more enthusiastic about the *Teen-aged Thunderbolt* having solos but not like this one. Apparently, this story was to satisfy the younger adolescent readers. I found this story a comedown in the high quality of *Batman* since the instigation of the "New Look".

If not for the magnificent artwork by Bob Kane and the eye-catching, question-forming, and otherwise captivating cover by Carmine Infantino, I just might have not liked this issue; but I did!

—Frank Klein, Webster Groves, Mo.

(Pride goeth before a . . . fall—so Gardner Fox acknowledges authorship of the "outstanding" *Missing Manhunters* story as well as the *Boo-Boo Patrol* "disaster"!—Editor)

DEAR EDITOR:

Many times I enjoy the "fill-in" story in a *Batman* comic much more than the lead story, and this was the case with issue 184. "The Boy Wonder's Boo-Boo Patrol" was undoubtedly the best story featuring *Robin* in a solo act I have ever read. Though the plot was one of the oldest in the business, the author succeeded in invoking brand new thrills and surprises in the story.

The author also made *Robin* appear much more mature than the normal teen-ager (assuming that I'm normal), because if I were *Robin*, and some guy said, "Where's *Batman*, junior? Doesn't he know you're out alone?" (page 3, panel 3) to me, I might have belted him one!

—John Bralek, Akron, Ohio

DEAR EDITOR:

There's something about "Mystery of the Missing Manhunters" that I've just got to know! Isn't the name of the story's villain—San Lorenzo—a variation on Lorenzo Semple, Jr., the head-writer on a certain campy TV show?

—Mark Evanier, Los Angeles, Cal.

(In all innocence we plead guilty to the name-switch! You're the only one who caught on!—Editor)

Address communications concerning this magazine to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022. Important note: Please send communications concerning the *Batman*-TV show directly to your local TV station.

AHEAD OF THEM, THE **STRAW-MAN SCOUNDREL** IS URGING ON HIS COHORTS...

HURRY IT UP! WE'RE IN A REMOTE CORNER OF THE PARK--AND ONLY KIDS COME TO THE PARK AT THIS HOUR OF THE MORNING--SO DIG, DIG, DIG!



DIG WHO'S COMIN', **SCARECROW!**

BATMAN AND ROBIN! TRUST THEM TO SHOW UP JUST WHEN I'VE RECOVERED THE LOOT OF MY PAST ROBBERIES!



I OUTRAN **ROBIN, SCARECROW**--SO I WIN FIRST CRACK AT YOU!



DUCK, **BATMAN!** BULLETS ARE ABOUT TO START FLYING!

WHO COULD ASK FOR TWO EASIER TARGETS!



HA! THE BULLETS ARE FLYING PAST US!

BLAM!

CRACK!





FROM THE PERISCOPE ARCHES A CHEMICAL SPRAY--A SPECIAL CONCOCTION OF THE TYRANT OF TERROR...

YULP!
I'M FALLING...

LOSING MY BALANCE--
GOING TO TOPPLE
OVER--FALL INTO
A BOTTOMLESS
PIT...

YES, YOU
TWO ARE
FALLING...
INTO MY
TRAP OF
FEAR!



GOT TO HOLD TIGHT!
C-CAN'T LET GO--OR
I'LL DROP DOWN
THROUGH THE
GROUND!

DON'T HOG THE WHOLE
TREE, **ROBIN**-- GIVE
ME GRABBING ROOM
TOO!



FEAR OF FALLING-- AN INNATE FEAR OF MANKIND!
IT'S ENGULFING THEM BOTH AS I LEAVE BEHIND
MY CALLING CARDS--THESE STRAWS!



LOOK WELL AT THOSE STRAWS, **DYNAMIC DUO**!
KNOW THEM FOR A SYMBOL OF THE MIGHTY
POWER I WIELD AS THE--**SCARECROW**!
FAREWELL, MY FEARFUL FELON-CHASERS--
FOR NOW!



SLOWLY THE MINUTES PASS. GRADUALLY
THE MUSCLE-BULGING ARMS OF THE
CAPED CRUSADER AND **BOY WONDER**
RELAX THEIR CLUTCH...

IT'S PASSING...I KNOW
THE GROUND WON'T
SWALLOW ME UP NOW...

YES, THE EFFECT
OF THE CHEMICAL--
PROBABLY A
HALLUCINOGEN--
DERIVATIVE--IS
WEARING
OFF!



* **EDITOR'S NOTE**: A FAMILY OF CHEMICALS
WITH UNUSUAL HALLUCINATORY AND EMOTIONAL
EFFECTS ON THE HUMAN BRAIN AND BODY.

RACING TOWARD THE RIVER BANK, THEY FIND THE MIDGET SUBMARINE GONE-- BUT NOT FORGOTTEN...

AS HE DID ON HIS LAST ENCOUNTER WITH US, THE **SCARECROW** HAS LEFT US CRYPTIC CLUES! **PARK--** OBVIOUSLY HIS FIRST VENTURE HERE TO REGAIN THE LOOT OF HIS MANY PAST ROBBERIES...

ARK! AND-- MARK! IF ONLY THEIR MEANING WERE AS OBVIOUS!

PARK
ARK
MARK

A LITTLE LATER, AS THEY ARE DISPENSING ICE CREAM TREATS, THE DEJECTED BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON LOSE A LITTLE OF THEIR GLOOM IN THE WARM GRINS OF THE BOYS...

THOSE CHEERY FACES SURE MAKE A FELLOW FEEL GOOD-- BUT I'D FEEL BETTER IF THE **SCARECROW** WERE BEHIND BARS!

I'M GLAD I GOT THIS IDEA OF HANDING OUT FREE ICE CREAM-- EVEN IF IT DID MEAN A SET-BACK AT THE HANDS OF THE **SCARECROW!**



STORY CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE...

You call this a
TEAM-UP?

THEN WHY ARE
BATMAN
and
HAWKMAN
TEARING
EACH OTHER
APART?

WHAT TURNS
THESE TWO
SUPER-HEROES
into
SUPER-ENEMIES?

THE ANSWERS ARE
WAITING AT YOUR
NEAREST NEWSSTAND--



IN THE LATEST
SUPER-ISSUE
of...



The
Brave and the Bold

ON SALE DEC. 22nd

FRIGHT OF THE SCARECROW PART 2

THEIR ICE CREAM PICNIC AT AN END, BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON ARE HARD AT WORK IN THE BATCAVE, IN THEIR OTHER IDENTITIES OF BATMAN AND ROBIN. BUT DESPITE THE MAGNIFICENT SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT THEY POSSESS AS MASTER CRIME-FIGHTERS, TIME RACES BY WITHOUT RESULT...

ARK! THAT MUST MEAN A BOAT OF SOME KIND-- BUT WE AREN'T GETTING ANY MEANINGFUL ANSWERS FROM THE BAT-COMPUTER!

KEEP ON TRYING! I'LL KEEP ON CHECKING THESE FILES!



HERE'S A "PROBABLE"! THE FLOATING PALACE, A GAMBLING SHIP ANCHORED OUT BEYOND THE THREE-MILE LIMIT!

Hmm...BY STRETCHING THE IMAGINATION, IT MIGHT FIT--

WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY-- ALFRED! ARE THOSE NEW INFORMATION CARDS FOR THE BAT-COMPUTER?

INDEED THEY ARE, SIR! AUNT HARRIET'S BEEN KEEPING ME SO BUSY MOVING FURNITURE I AM AFRAID I'VE NEGLECTED MY MORE IMPORTANT DUTIES!

EAGERLY THE DEFT FINGERS OF THE BOY WONDER GRASP THE CARDS--FEED THEM THROUGH THE INTRICATE RELAY SYSTEMS OF THE INFORMATION MACHINE AND...

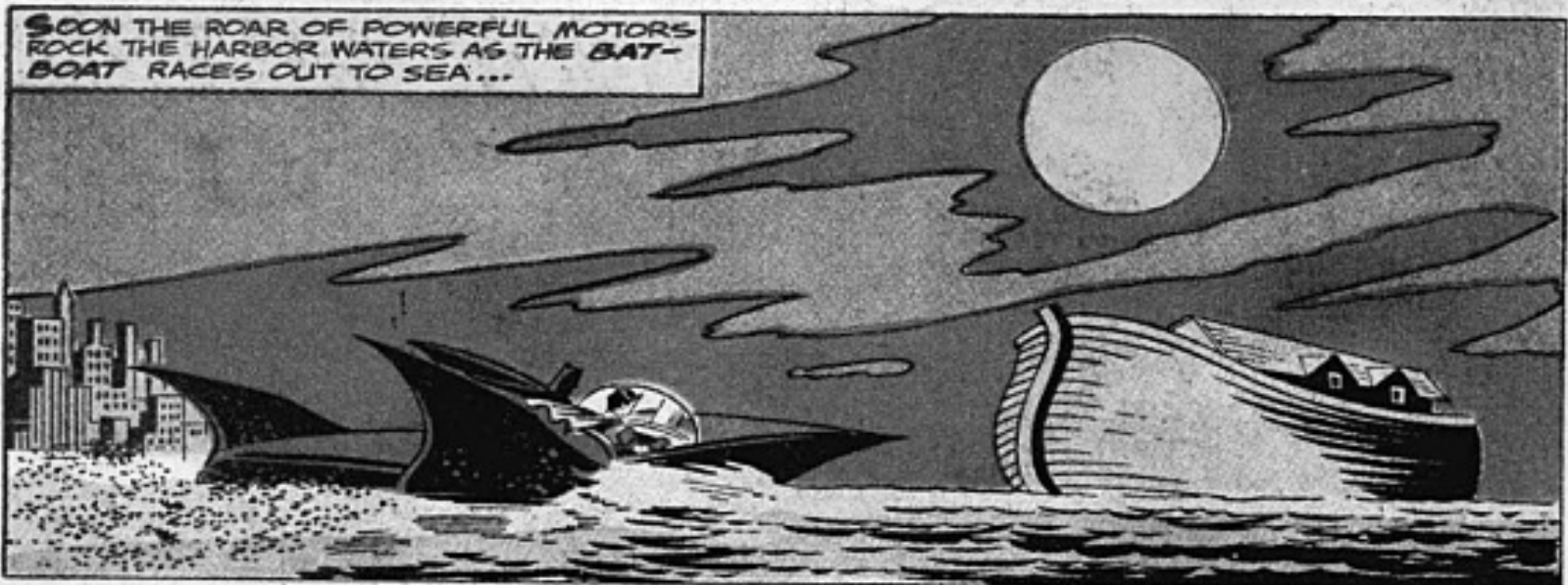
YIPPEE! WE'VE CAUGHT THE BRASS RING! LOOK--

THE ARK-- A REPLICA OF THE ORIGINAL NOAH'S ARK MADE FOR THE SILENT MOVIE OF THAT NAME...





SOON THE ROAR OF POWERFUL MOTORS ROCK THE HARBOR WATERS AS THE **BAT-BOAT** RACES OUT TO SEA...



TWIN BAT-ROPES FLY UPWARD--TIGHTEN--FOLLOWED BY A PAIR OF CLIMBING FIGURES...



IN GRIM SILENCE TWO MASKED MANHUNTERS SOFT-SHOE ALONG THE DESERTED DECK...



THEY MOVE DOWN A COMPANIONWAY AND ALONG A CORRIDOR TO A DOOR THAT SLOWLY OPENS TO THE TOUCH OF FINGERS. AND NOW, AT LAST, A VOICE BREAKS THE SILENCE...





FORWARD LEAP THOSE HIGHLY TRAINED BODIES! WITH EVERY MUSCLE TRAINED FOR COMBAT, WITH EVERY SENSE ALERT FOR DANGER-- THEY ARE LIVING WEAPONS!..

WELCOME, DYNAMIC DUO! YOU HAVE VENTURED INTO MY TRAP!

AND THEN--WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF AN EYE-BLINK, WITH THE RAPIDITY OF A HEART-BEAT--THE ROOM IS PLUNGED INTO EBON DARKNESS...

WHA-WHAT HAPPENED? I CAN'T SEE MY HAND IN FRONT OF MY FACE!

MY TRAP HAS CLOSED! THE PRIMAL FEAR OF DARKNESS KNOWN BY EVERY MAN EVER BORN--IS UPON YOU!

INSTANTLY, THE "LIGHTS" GO ON--BUT NOT FOR THE CAPED CRUSADER AND TEEN-AGE THUNDER-BOLT!...

MY SPECIAL BLACK-LIGHT VIBRATIONS HAVE AFFECTED CERTAIN SENSORY PORTIONS OF YOUR BRAIN! BELIEVE ME, THE ROOM IS FILLED WITH LIGHT--EVEN IF YOU CAN'T SEE IT! YOU ARE LIKE MEN **STRUCK BLIND!**

AND NOW THE ABYSMAL TERROR OF UTTER DARKNESS--INHERITED FROM OUR FIRST ANCESTORS WHEN DARKNESS MADE THEM EASY PREY OF CARNIVOROUS BEASTS--IS EATING AT YOUR VERY SOULS!

NOW I BID YOU A FEARFUL FAREWELL! FAR WORSE IS TO FOLLOW!!



GUIDED BY THAT HOARSE, SCRATCHY VOICE, THE DYNAMIC DUO HURLS DESPERATE BODIES IN ITS DIRECTION EVEN AS...

HERE ARE MY CALLING CARDS-- DRY AND RUSTLING STRAWS! SYMBOLS OF MY RAGTAG SELF-- PROOF OF MY GENIUS! NOT RAYMOND ARCHER WAS MY TARGET-- THAT WAS A COVER-UP NAME FOR MYSELF-- BUT YOU TWO! AND HERE-- YOU SHALL PERISH!



BLIND--SHAKEN TO THEIR INNERMOST CORE BY THE CREEPING NIGHTMARE IN WHICH THEY FIND THEMSELVES UTTERLY ALONE IN "DARKNESS"--THEY SLAM INTO A SUDDENLY CLOSED DOOR...



SLOWLY THEY SAG FLOORWARDS--UNAWARE OF THE LIGHTED ROOM--KNOWING ONLY THE FEAR THAT SHAKES THEIR BODIES AND THE ETERNAL NIGHT THAT HOODS THEIR EYES...

B-BATMAN-- I'M A-A-A-SHAMED TO S-SAY IT-- B-BUT I'M P-PETRIFIED WITH T-TERROR!

I'M F-FRIGHTENED MYSELF! BUT THIS IS A PHYSICAL REACTION! SOMETHING WE CANNOT CONTROL! OUR ONLY RECOURSE IS TO FIGHT IT-- AS WE HAVE FOUGHT OTHER FOES...



UNTIL THE BLACK-LIGHT VIBRATIONS WEAR OFF-- AS DID THE SPRAY IN THE PARK...! WE'VE G-GOT TO HANG ON...



I CAN FEEL THE DOOR-- EVEN IF I CAN'T SEE IT! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

BUT AS THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN...

WHA-WHAT ON ARK-- IS THAT?

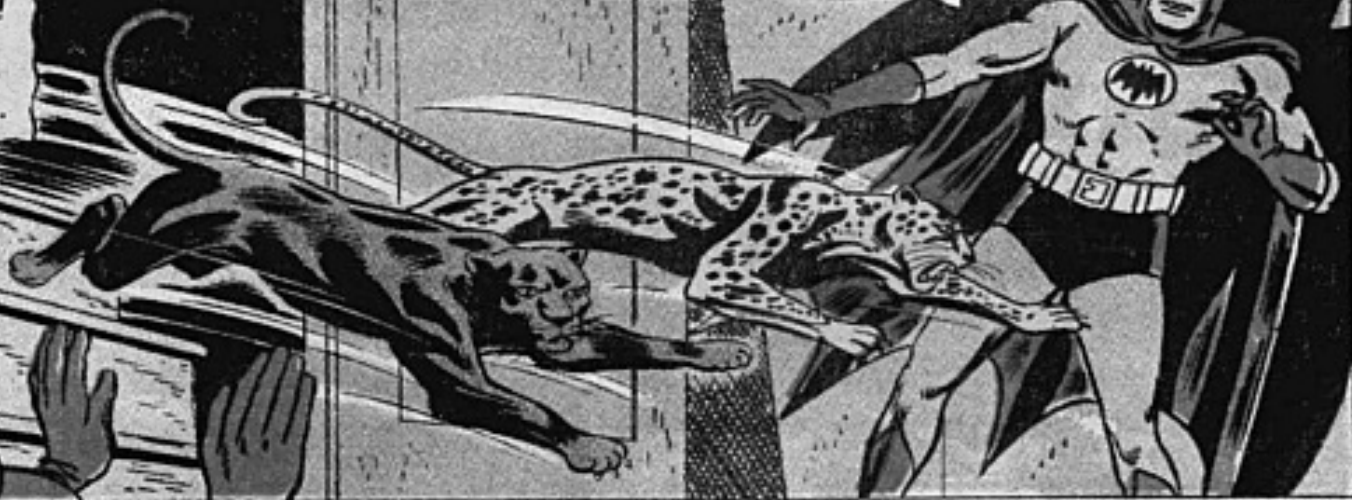
BRACE YOURSELF, ROBIN! WE'RE ABOUT TO BE ATTACKED BY WILD ANIMALS--AND IF I KNOW THE SCARECROW, THEY'LL BE ANIMALS WHO CAN SEE IN THE SAME DARKNESS THAT BLINDS OUR EYES!



ROOAR!

A SCRATCHING
OF CLAWS!
A SNARL OF
FELINE FURY!
THERE IS NO
TIME TO
SLAM SHUT
THE DOOR!...

THIS IS WHAT **SCARECROW** MEANT WHEN
HE SAID--**FAR WORSE IS TO FOLLOW!**



DOWN I GO! I
COULD FEEL THAT
BEAST'S HOT
BREATH
COMING AT
ME!

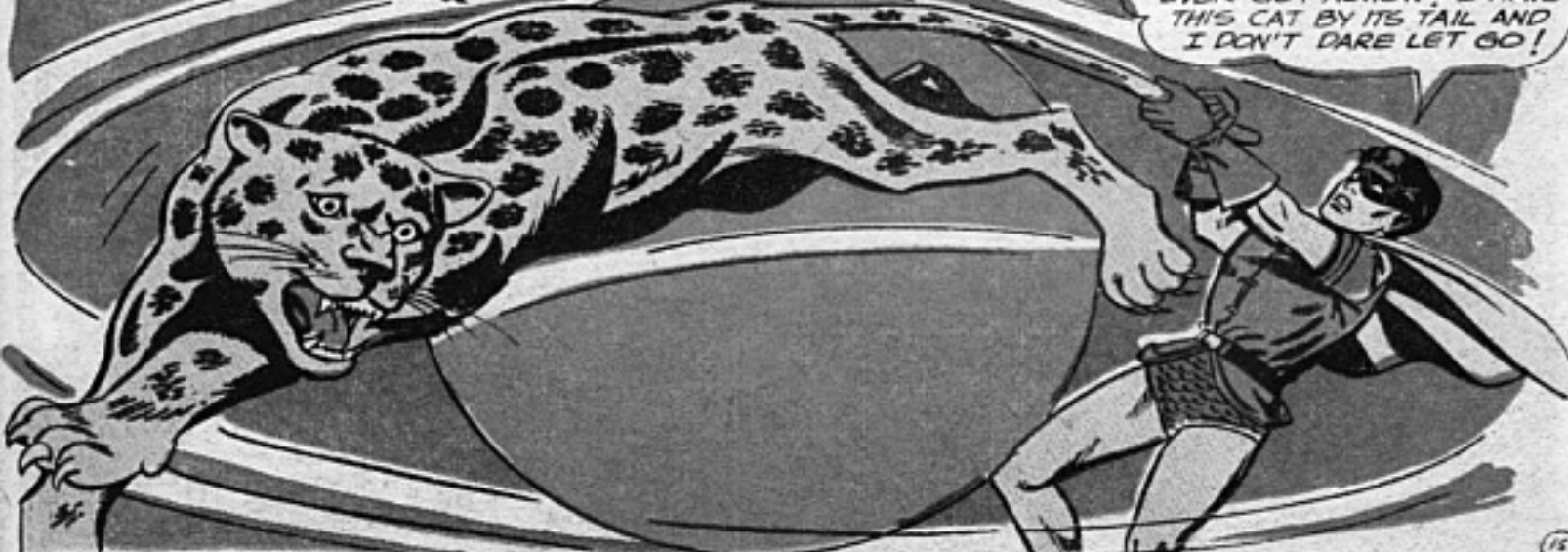


CATCH A TIGER BY
THE TAIL --IF IT
IS A TIGER...



REMEMBER THE SOLDIER'S
CODE FOR FIGHTING FEAR,
**ROBIN! ACTION--AND
MORE ACTION!**

BROTHER!! HAVE I
EVER GOT ACTION! I HAVE
THIS CAT BY ITS TAIL AND
I DON'T DARE LET GO!



THAT ATTACKING CAT CAN SEE--
AND I **CAN'T**! GOT TO
LESSON THE ODDS...

ANGERED BY THE DODGE AND DART
TACTICS OF ITS HUMAN PREY, THE
PANTHER LEAPS, CLAWS OUT AND
SHARP FANGS BARED...

WHERE IS IT?
WHAT'S IT
GOING TO
DO?

SWISH!

GROWRR!

ROBIN, YOU OKAY? REMEMBER THE
SECOND RULE OF SOLDIER COMBAT--
CALL OUT TO ONE ANOTHER!
"MISERY LOVES COMPANY"
IS STILL A GOOD RULE! I--

AAAGGHH!

ALARMED BY HIS FELLOW FIGHTER'S SUDDEN
CRY OF ALARM, **ROBIN** LETS GO OF HIS
HOLD...

**BATMAN--
YOU
ALL RIGHT?**

NOT AT THE
MOMENT--
BUT I WILL
BE!

GROWRR!

THUD!

KNOWLEDGE IS ANOTHER THING THAT HELPS US FIGHT FEAR, **ROBIN!** WE'RE GOING TO **THINK** OUR WAY OUT OF THIS SITUATION! NOW-- WHAT IS THE ONE THING ALL WILD ANIMALS FEAR...

FIRE! I WAS GOING TO TRY A TEAR-GAS BOMB EVEN IF I WASN'T SURE WHETHER THESE ANIMALS HAVE TEAR DUCTS-- BUT YOURS IS A BETTER WAY! AH! FOUND WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR--THE **SCARECROW'S** CALLING CARDS--

NOW OUT WITH YOUR **LASER-BEAM TORCH!**

STRAWS!

GOTCHA!

USE THE HEAT OF THE **LASER BEAM**-- SET THE **STRAWS** ON FIRE!

SURE--WHenever WE GO HUNTING, WE BUILD CAMPFIRES AT NIGHT TO KEEP THE WILD ANIMALS AWAY FROM US WHILE WE'RE SLEEPING!

SO IT OUGHT TO WORK JUST AS WELL HERE!

WE'LL NEED MORE THAN STRAWS TO--**AHH!** HERE WE ARE! SOME **WOOD**-- SMEARED WITH **PITCH!**

RIP

ANGRY SNARLS RISE FROM THE THROATS OF THE FURRY, FRUSTRATED FELINES AS...

IT'S WORKING!
THEY'RE KEEPING
AT A SAFE
DISTANCE!

NOW WE'VE GOT TO
PUT OURSELVES AT
AN EVEN SAFER
DISTANCE--OUTSIDE
THIS ROOM!



"RUNNING THE GAUNTLET" BETWEEN CLAWS AND FANGS, THE PAIR GROPE FOR THE DOORWAY...

GRAB THAT
DOORKNOB
ROBIN!

I WILL --SOON AS
I FIND IT!



STORY CONTINUES ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING!

The Chips are DOWN...

GENIA
A VILLAINESS
WITH A SUPER-BRAIN,
HAS LEARNED THE
SECRET IDENTITIES
of
**BATMAN and
SUPERMAN!**

WILL THE
**WORLD'S
FINEST TEAM**
ACTUALLY KILL TO KEEP
HER FROM TELLING THE
WORLD WHO THEY
REALLY ARE?

FIND OUT IN...
ON SALE
DEC. 13th



DC
FEB.
12

**WORLD'S
FINEST**

STARRING:
BATMAN
and
SUPERMAN

NO, SUPERMAN...
BATMAN...
DON'T SHOOT HER!
KILLING IS AGAINST
OUR CODE!

BUTT OUT, ROBIN!
SHE DISCOVERED
OUR SECRET
IDENTITIES...

... SO WE'LL
MAKE SURE SHE
NEVER TALKS!

Featuring **GENIA**,
MISTRESS OF MALICE,
in "The BROKEN CODE!"

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE -- EXTRA

DEAR READER: Why LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE—EXTRA? In journalistic jargon, "extra" signifies an edition of a newspaper other than the *regular* edition—and so it is with this EXTRA—in which are featured communications above and beyond the sphere of critical comments usually presented in LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE.

For this first EXTRA we've selected a couple of letters conveniently at hand—it's the best we could do on such short notice. This department will be as good as only *you* make it. Therefore we're extending an invitation to you—and *you*—and especially *YOU*—to make this page your own by sending in something of special interest to your fellow fans.

Perhaps you'd like to tell 'em what's your favorite all-time *Batman* story and why; the unusual circumstances under which you happened to start reading *Batman*; why you read *Batman*; what you would do if you were editor of *Batman*!

It's your right to write, *Batmaniacs*—so don't muffle out on this EXTRA chance to break into print! Address LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE—EXTRA, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.—Editor

DEAR EDITOR: *Shades of the Old Look!* That's what I said to myself while reading your August, September and November issues of *Batman*. For years I have been a faithful follower of the *Caped Crusader*, and was delighted when you introduced your "New Look". But in the earlier part of this year, I knew it was only a matter of time before "it" would come. What brought on this reaction? Simple. The *Batman-TV* series. And what, you ask, is wrong with the series? I can sum it up in one word—*Camp!*

You see, *Batman* was always the most believable of your heroes; and the *New Look* took advantage of this "believability". However, the TV show is actually a parody of *Batman*. The producers admit they are only making fun of *Batman*. After watching a few of these shows, I was disappointed with it. But I still look forward to your mags. Then I had a horrible thought. What if you copied its camp style? And soon my fears were realized. The three main things I noticed were:

(1) The use of such expressions as *Holy Jitters* and *Holy Wanted Posters!* Such expressions are not only ridiculous, but very unrealistic.

(2) The overexaggerated POWS and OOFs cluttering up the fighting scenes and the awkward positions of clobbered thugs.

(3) The new gadgets. For instance; suction-cap rope-guns, a hypnotic disk, *Bat-springboards*, and a *Bat-snooper-scope* in the *Batmobile*, plus a lot of other *Bat-junk*.

These and others should be eliminated, the sooner the better. I like to think of *Batman* as the man who

strikes terror into the hearts of criminals, rather than a slapstick clown, as in the TV series, and I'm sure that most of the readers agree with me.

—Gary Collins, New York, N.Y.

(Do you so agree, readers? We—and your fellow fans—would like to get more reactions—from youngsters and old-timers—from male and female.—Editor).

DEAR EDITOR: As much as I enjoy Mike Friedrich's letters in your column, and respect his opinions, I must disagree with his recent downgrading of the *Catwoman* in *Batman* 186.

Mike compared her to the recently introduced *Poison Ivy*, and concluded that *Catwoman* was to be doomed forever to that ever recurring graveyard of reprints, the *80-Page Giants*. Unfortunate as it is, the only stories to be reprinted are those from the early 1950's, when not only was *Catwoman* on her way out, but the entire *Batman* series.

However, this proves that a comparison of costumes between *Catwoman* and *Poison Ivy* would be highly unfair, since there is a difference of over ten years, and the styles *have* changed. I'm willing to bet that a new, modernized *Catwoman*, similar to the one portrayed on the television series, would catapult *Poison Ivy* from her false position as *Batman's* chief female nemesis.

There are several reasons, mainly, the things *Catwoman* has that *Poison Ivy* hasn't.

(1) A gimmick. The long-standing trademark of *Batman* foes are their gimmicks. The *Joker's* many joke-based schemes, the *Penguin's* bird-umbrella crimes, *Two-Face's* double crimes, and so on. As a matter of fact the *Catwoman* has two—stealing things related to cats, and the enduring theme of her nine lives. Both have been greatly used, but never to their real potential.

(2) She is thoroughly evil, and even though she has tried to break away from her life of crime, she has always wound up in the role which suits her best, since the very concept of a cat is evil and mysterious. *Poison Ivy* steals merely because of her spoiled childhood and boredom with life.

(3) Perhaps her greatest asset, that she is a *Batman* foe from "way back". The *Catwoman*, between her first appearance in *Batman* Number One and her last in Number 86, had become as familiar as those greats, the *Joker* and *Penguin*. She is a "box office name", if you will, one that everyone knows, and loves to hate.

Catwoman is a character that is not to be doomed to comic limbo, but one to be reborn, and allowed once again to match wits with *Batman*.

—James Falx, Bayonne, N.J.

(Controversy—that's what we like! Readers, take sides—and fire away!—Editor)

DIRECT CURRENTS

Here we go again, with a look at the latest things in comics. Hold on while we plug you into our own private hot-line and give you the inside info on what's coming up in the most Dazzling Creations around.

The **DOOM PATROL**'s down, but not out, as they return from the dead. But for how long, when they're confronted by the terrifying menace of "MANDRED THE EXECUTIONER"? **February Issue, No. 109**, on sale Dec. 6.

Lost: the planet **THANAGARI**! Lost: **HAWKGIRL**! Found: **ADAM STRANGE**! Three elements guaranteed to make "THE WORLD THAT VANISHED," in the **March HAWKMAN**, No. 18, the most sensational story yet! On sale Dec. 8.

"The female of the species is more deadly than the male!" Can **SUPERMAN** defeat a **FEMALE BRAINIAC**... even with the help of **BATMAN** and **ROBIN**? Find out in the **February WORLD'S FINEST**, No. 164, on sale Dec. 13.

The man who was reared by a winged monster returns to lead the pterodactyls in a startling battle against a modern enemy in—"REVENGE OF THE BIG BIRDS!" **March STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES**, No. 131, on sale Dec. 20.

Imagine **LOIS LANE** communicating with sea creatures... commanding a flying fish battalion... giving orders to an octopus! Read "LOIS LANE'S AQUAMAN TRICKS," in the **February Issue**, No. 72, on sale Dec. 20.

Make room for a new super-hero—**TORNADO-TOTI**! Who's responsible for his origin? None other than our playful pair and **LITTLE ARTHUR**, in the **March SUGAR AND SPIKE**, No. 69, on the stands Dec. 20.

BATMAN and **HAWKMAN**—that's the latest team-up in **THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD**, No. 70 (March)! The **CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER**'s secret identity is at stake, and the **WINGED WONDER** is the only one who can help! On sale Dec. 22.

ZATANNA's search for her missing father, **ZATARA THE MAGICIAN**, which started in **HAWKMAN**, then shifted to **ATOM** to **GREEN LANTERN** to **ELONGATED MAN**, concludes in the **February JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA**, No. 51, on sale Dec. 13.

The saga of the **NEW BLACKHAWK ERA** continues in the **February issue**, No. 229, as the **MAGNIFICENT 7** ask for one more chance to prove themselves! If they miff this one, it's **BYE-BYE BLACKHAWKS**! On sale Dec. 13.

With the explosive fury of a bursting shell comes the **March 80 PAGE GIANT**, No. 177! It's DC's mighty **6 BATTLE STARS** in their most titanic request war stories! You'll find 'em on the stands Dec. 13.

You'll share the grief of **CLARK KENT** when he mourns the loss of his beloved wife in "THE DEATH OF **LOIS LANE**!" This moving **IMAGINARY STORY** headlines the **February SUPERMAN**, No. 194, on sale Dec. 15.

The **February WONDER WOMAN** presents the mighty Amazon in two of her most astonishing adventures, featuring the fantastic villains of the **GOLDEN AGE**! It's **No. 168**, on sale Dec. 15. Be sure to get it!

The **METAL MEN**—the world's most unique robot band—soar into their most high-flying adventure—"THE BALLOON MAN HANGS HIGH!" This sensational saga's on the scene in the **March issue**, No. 24, on sale Dec. 15.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Act of October 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

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B. Paid Circulation: 1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales:	889,000	1,023,000
2. Mail subscriptions:	9,470	13,352
C. Total Paid Circulation:	898,470	1,036,352
D. Free Distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier or other means:	330	330
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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. **IRWIN DONENFELD**, Business Manager.

FRIGHT OF THE SCARECROW PART 3

TIME IS WARPED AS THE BOY WONDER'S NORMALLY DEFT FINGERS SLIDE AND SLIP AS THEY SEEK TO LOCATE THE DOORKNOB WHICH WILL OPEN A PATH TO SAFETY!

THE ANIMALS -- HELD AT BAY BY THE FLAMES, SEEING THEIR PREY ABOUT TO ESCAPE -- ARE GOING MAD WITH RAGE AND TERROR!

WHERE'S THAT DOOR? SEEMS LIKE HOURS SINCE I'VE BEEN GROPING FOR IT!



FOUND IT, BATMAN! FOLLOW MY VOICE!



IT'S OPEN! WHISPERING! THAT WAS CLOSE AS THE PRO-VERBIAL CAT'S WHISKERS!

THIS'LL KEEP 'EM AWAY TILL WE SLAM THE DOOR SHUT ON THEM!



BEHIND THE SAFETY OF THE DOOR, THE DYNAMIC DUO SAGS WITH EXHAUSTION...

PANT! PANT! AFTER ALL THAT-- WE'RE FARTHER AWAY THEN EVER FROM CATCHING THE SCARECROW!

GASP! CHEER UP, ROBIN! AT LEAST WE'RE STILL ALIVE TO TRY!



SIDE BY SIDE THEY MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE DECK, WHERE IN A LITTLE WHILE...

MY EYES ARE CLEARING! I CAN SEE THE STARS-- AND THE HARBOR LIGHTS!

ME TOO! BOY! THAT PANIC PEDDLER SURE PLAYED US FOR FALL GUYS!



IN THE BATBOAT...

THINK, ROBIN! WE MUST LEARN WHAT THE SCARECROW MEANT BY HIS THIRD CLUE-- THE WORD MARK!

HUH! HE MUST MEAN WE'RE "EASY MARKS", THE WAY WE'VE BEEN TOPPLING OVER LIKE DUCKPINS EVERY TIME HE PUSHES HARD!



THAT'S IT, CHUM! YOU BROKE THE CLUE!

HUH? WHA--? I DID? B-BUT HOW? WHAT'D I SAY?



EASY MARKS! GET IT? A MARK IS A VICTIM OF A SHARP PRACTICE OR A CUNNING SCHEME!

I KNOW THAT-- BUT NOT WHAT FOLLOWS!



YOU HIT ON THE ANSWER WHEN YOU CALLED US FALL GUYS! FALL GUYS ARE EASY MARKS!

EASY MARK? FALL GUY? I DON'T--HEY! NOW I GET IT! THE SCARECROW IS REFERRING TO FALL--JEREMY T. FALL! HE'S THAT RICH FRIEND OF YOURS--OF--OF BRUCE WAYNE'S!



FALL-- THE MILLIONAIRE PHILANTHROPIST WHO LIKES TO KEEP LARGE SUMS OF CASH IN HIS HOUSE SO HE CAN PERSONALLY GIVE THEM TO CHARITY, SUCH AS THE UNITED FUND DRIVE THAT STARTS TOMORROW! THE SCARECROW'S LAST TRICK IS TO GRAB THAT MONEY FOR HIMSELF!



SHORTLY,
IN THE
RIVER-
SIDE
MANSION
OF
JEREMY
T. FALL...

N-NO! NO! S-STOP PUFFING THAT
SMOKE AT ME! IT'S S-SCARING
ME TO D-DEATH!

IT'S
YOUR
MONEY
OR
YOUR
LIFE,
FALL!

ABRUPTLY-- A CHILLING
SOUND...

CLANG--AANG!

THE **BURGLAR
ALARM!** BUT
I SHUT IT OFF
MYSELF!

WE
BETTER GET
OUTTA HERE--
FAST! THE
POLICE'LL
BE HERE
SOON--

SUDDENLY, TO THE STUNNED SURPRISE OF THE *PRINCE OF PANIC*...

YOU TWO! I LEFT
YOU FOR DEAD
BACK IN THE **ARK!**

IT'S OUR TURN TO INSTILL A LITTLE FRIGHT
IN YOU, **SCARECROW!** WE SET OFF
THAT **BURGLAR ALARM!**



WE'LL "TABLE" THE
FIREWORKS, BOYS!

I'LL MAKE THE **DYNAMIC DUO**
SO FEARFUL THEY'LL SHAKE
FOR A WEEK!



THEN--INTO THE ROOM COMES THE WAIL OF A POLICE SIREN...

SCREEEEEE

A POLICE SIREN?! THAT'S ONE SOUND THAT MAKES EVEN ME FRIGHTENED! BUT HOW COULD THEY HAVE RESPONDED SO SWIFTLY TO THE BURGLAR ALARM?

I DON'T KNOW BUT I'M CLEARING OUT OF HERE!



WITH THE SPEED OF AN ANGRY COBRA, BATMAN STRIKES!...

THAT OUGHT TO END YOUR PIPE DREAM, SCARECROW!



NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER SEE A FLYING SCARECROW!



TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THAT MONEY YOU WANTED TO STEAL! IT'S THE LAST CASH YOU'RE GOING TO SEE FOR A LONG TIME!



MEANWHILE, THE BOY WONDER HAS BEEN IN HIS OWN SLAM-BANG ACTION...



A GRATEFUL JEREMY FALL
BABBLER HIS PRAISE WHEN
THE SMOKE OF BATTLE
CLEARS...

I JUST CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
HOW THAT
BURGLAR
ALARM WENT
OFF BY ITSELF
TO DRAW YOU
IN HERE AND
SAVE MY
MONEY!

IT DIDN'T!
WE TRIPPED
THE ALARM,
JUST AS WE
ALSO
CAUSED
THE
"POLICE
SIREN" ON
OUR BAT-
MOBILE TO
BE ACTIVATED
BY A TIMING
DEVICE!

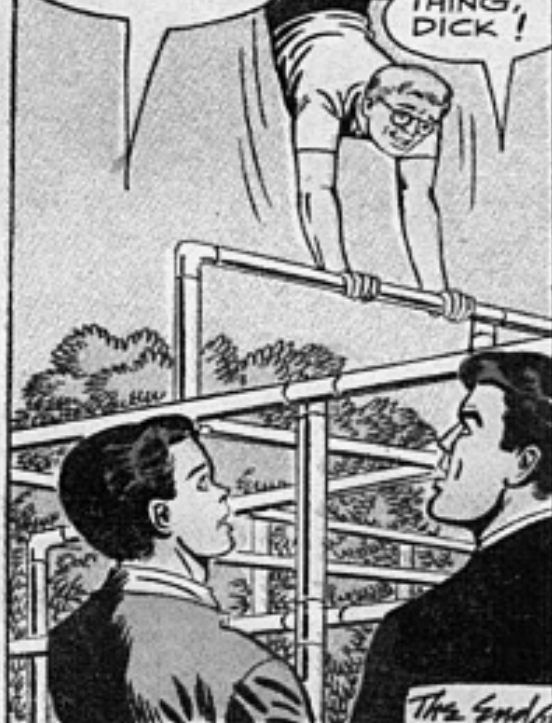
HERE COMES
THE POLICE
NOW--
ANSWERING
THE BURGLAR
ALARM!

WE'LL TELL THEM
WHERE TO FIND
THE LOOT OF
THE SCARE-
CROW'S
PREVIOUS
ROBBERIES
WHICH HE
RECOVERED--
SO THEY CAN
GET THAT TOO
AND RETURN IT
TO ITS PROPER
OWNERS!

A WEEK LATER AT THE
PLAYGROUND CHAMPIONSHIPS...

ANDY'S THE WINNER
OF THE JUNGLE
GYM CONTEST!
IT PROVES AGAIN
WHAT A GUY CAN
DO-- ONCE HE
OVERCOMES
HIS FEARS!

I'LL BET
AN ICE
CREAM
CONE THE
SCARE-
CROW IS
THINKING
THE SAME
THING,
DICK!



EYES FRONT! YOU'RE SKATING
ON THIN ICE!



DC NEEDS YOU ---
HAVE A DURABLE CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!